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March 14, 1978

Memo to File:

Re: Whirlwind Mine
San Juan County, Utah
ACT/037/032

A field inspection of this proposed operation was conducted on March 2nd 1978 by Ron Daniels, Mike Thompson, and Jim Smith from the Division and Mr. Tom Redd of Blanding.

The operation will be a rejuvenation of a previously existing mine. The mine is located on the point of a high mesa overlooking the San Juan Arm of Lake Powell. The Navajo Indian Reservation is to the south.

The soil type for this area is considered to be rock land with the surface soil on the mesa having a high proportion of clay. The vegetation in the area consists of shadscale, broom snakeweed, ephedra, galleta grass, and a few other scattered grasses and forbs.

The access road to the mine site is in a complete state of disrepair and is impassable, except by foot, for approximately the last two to three miles. There are numerous drainage problems along the route that will require improvements such as ditching, waterbars, and culverts.

The mine site is presently littered with debris from past operations, and will be cleaned up according to Mr. Redd. There are two portals below the top of the mesa, one for entry and one for hauling ore and waste rock out of the mine. An old loading bin is located below this portal and there is a waste dump over the side of the hill. The bin and the dump would be visible from the lake, however, the surface facilities on top of the mesa would not.

The plans are to drive an incline down from the southeast side of the mesa and place the topsoil, waste rock, and ore within a depressed area on the mesa point. This will keep the visual impact from the lake to a minimum.

There are several unplugged drill holes in the area which need to be plugged also.

Mr. Redd has an assigned State Mineral Lease ML-34603 for the south ½ of Section 2, however, this section of State Land is involved in a land exchange with the Federal Government and will be included as a part of the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area when finalized. This exchange will include mineral rights.

According to John Blake, via a telephone conversation, State Lands has no objection to the operation.

JWS
JAMES W. SMITH
RECLAMATION SOILS SPECIALIST